

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5148

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW
SUBJECT: MEMBER OF GDR INTSTITUTE IPW ON GDR/FRG RELATIONS

SUMMARY: IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY
OFFICER, DR. HEINZ KOSIN OF THE GDR INSTITUTE FOR
POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (IPW) SAID THAT THE GDR'S
JANUARY 11 CONTROLS ON THE FRG PERMREP IN EAST BERLIN
WERE INTENDED TO SIGNAL THE FRG THAT IT HAD NO RIGHT
TO REPRESENT CITIZENS OF THE GDR AND TO SHOW THAT THE
GDR HAD MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO PROTECT ITS SECURITY.
KOSIN CHARACTERIZED FRG/GDR RELATIONS AS BEING AT A
CRITICAL STAGE AND FELT THAT THE FRG UNDERESTIMATED HOW
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FAR THE GDR WAS PREPARED TO GO TO PROTECT ITS INTERNAL
SECURITY. KOSIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
BUCHAREST WARSAW PACT MEETING IN LAUNCHING A COORDINATED
BLOC APPROACH TO COMBATTING UNDERMINING EFFECTS OF
HELSINKI. HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON WHETHER THE GDR
VERORDNUNGSGAZETTE WOULD REAPPEAR, AND PREDICTED THAT
FRG/GDR RELATIONS WOULD COME MORE DIRECTLY UNDER

POLITBUERO MEMBER HERMANN AXEN'S PURVIEW ONCE ALBERT NORDEN HAD PASSED FROM THE SCENE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JANUARY 13 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, DR. HEINZ KOSIN OF THE GDR INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (IPW) GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GDR'S JANUARY 11 ACTION AGAINST THE FRG PERMREP WAS INTENDED AS A WARNING TO THE FRG AND SAID THAT CONTROLS ON ACCESS WOULD NOT BE REINSTATED FOR THE TIME BEING. HE SAID THE SITUATION WOULD REMAIN AS IT HAD BEEN SINCE MID-DECEMBER WITH SPOT ID CHECKS ON GDR CITIZENS LEAVING THE FRG REPRESENTATION.

2. KOSIN MENTIONED THAT THE GDR HAD WANTED TO MAKE TWO POINTS WITH THE FRG; A) THE FRG HAD NO RIGHT TO REPRESENT CITIZENS OF THE GDR; IF IT STUCK TO ITS PRETENSION OF REPRESENTING ALL "GERMANS," IT INTERFERED WITH GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE GDR WOULD HAVE TO REACT TO PROTECT ITSELF, AND B) THE GDR HAD MEANS TO SAFEGUARD ITS INTERNAL SECURITY AND WAS WILLING TO USE THEM EVEN AT THE RISK OF ADVERSELY AFFECTING FRG/GDR RELATIONS.

3. KOSIN ALSO CHARACTERIZED FRG/GDR RELATIONS AS BEING AT A CRITICAL STAGE. HE FELT THAT THE FRG UNDERESTIMATED WHAT THE GDR WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO TO PROTECT ITS

INTERNAL INTERESTS AGAINST PRESSURES FROM THE FRG. KOSIN NOTED IN PASSING THAT AS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

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STATE, THE GDR WAS IN A BETTER POSITION NOW THAN FOUR YEARS AGO TO CONTEMPLATE DIVERTING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TRADE ACCORD WITH FRANCE AS INDICATIVE OF GROWING GDR TRADE WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE EEC EXCEPT THE FRG DISAPPROVE OF THE SPECIAL INNER-GERMAN TRADE RELATIONSHIP AS IT AFFECTS THE EEC. THUS, THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO INCREASE BILATERAL TRADE WITH THE GDR IF THESE SPECIAL INNER-GERMAN PREFERENCES WERE ENDED. IN ADDITION, MOST WEST GERMANS NOW SEEMED TO TAKE THE FRG/GDR TRANSIT AND VISITS AGREEMENTS AS A MATTER OF COURSE. IF THE GDR TIGHTENED UP HERE, THE CITIZENS OF THE FRG WOULD REALIZE HOW MUCH THEY HAD PROFITED FROM THESE IMPROVEMENTS AND WOULD THUS COME TO FAVOR A LESS STRIDENT COURSE TOWARD THE GDR.

4. KOSIN SAID FRG/GDR RELATIONS HAD NOT YET DETERIORATED TO THE POINT THAT GDR STEPS AFFECTING TRADE WITH FRG AND THE TRANSIT AGREEMENTS WERE AN IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITY BUT IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUED AND IF THE

FRG DID NOT REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE GDR WOULD NOT SHRINK FROM TAKING THEM.

5. KOSIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BUCHAREST CONFERENCE AND LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT BUCHAREST LAUNCHED A COORDINATED EFFORT BY THE SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES TO COMBAT THE UNDERMINING EFFECTS OF HELSINKI. HE IMPLIED THAT A COORDINATED APPROACH TOWARD THE FRG IN PARTICULAR WAS DISCUSSED AT BUCHAREST.

6. KOSIN ATTEMPTED TO DENIGRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GDR'S NEW VISA REGULATIONS. HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE STRONG WESTERN PRESS REACTION TO REMOVING THE BORDER POSTS AROUND EAST BERLIN. HE SAID THAT THE GDR WOULD INCREASE MOTORIZED PATROLS AROUND EAST BERLIN TO CHECK WESTERN AUTOS SO AS TO PREVENT PEOPLE WITH DAY VISAS FOR EAST BERLIN FROM DRIVING INTO THE GDR. HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NONCOMMITTAL ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GDR VERORDNUNGSGAZETTE HAD BEEN ELIMINATED. KOSIN DEMURRED WHEN ASKED WHY THE GDR HAD TAKEN STEPS OFFENSIVE TO THE WESTERN ALLIES AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS ALSO TAKING A TOUGH LINE TOWARD THE FRG, ESPECIALLY IF THE GDR HOPED THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD COUNTERBALANCE ITS STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE DONE NOTHING TO OFFEND THE US, UK AND FRANCE, GIVEN THE CURRENT "SERIOUS" STATE OF FRG/GDR RELATIONS.

7. KOSIN SAID THAT FRG/GDR RELATIONS WERE STILL BEING HANDLED BY ALBERT NORDEN IN THE POLITBUERO, AND THAT DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS WITH THE FRG WERE BEING DIRECTED IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BY HERBERT HAEBER, KOSIN'S FORMER BOSS IN IPW. KOSIN SAID THAT HERMANN AXEN DESIRED MORE DIRECT CONTROL OVER FRG/GDR RELATIONS. WHEN NORDEN, NOW OLD AND INFIRM, PASSED FROM THE SCENE, FRG/GDR AFFAIRS WOULD SURELY BE SHIFTED TO AXEN'S SHOP. KOSIN WONDERED WHETHER HAEBER, WHO WAS USED TO BEING HIS OWN MAN, WOULD ACCEPT BEING A MERE ABTEILUNGSLEITER UNDER MARKOWSKI IN THE AXEN APPARAT.

8. COMMENT: KOSIN IS KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO HIS FORMER BOSS IN THE IPW, DR. HERBERT HAEBER, WHO CURRENTLY HEADS THE FRG SECTION IN THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BEEN TASKED WITH PASSING MESSAGES AND INTERPRETATIONS ON TO THE EMBASSY, MOST RECENTLY ON THE GDR GOVERNMENT SHIFT IN OCTOBER 1976. KOSIN INITIATED THIS MOST RECENT MEETING, APPARENTLY WITH THE AIM OF LETTING US KNOW HOW THE GDR LOOKED AT THE MOST RECENT

DEVELOPMENTS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE FRG AND INTERPRETING
THE SIGNALS BEING GIVEN TO THE FRG. POLANSKY

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